REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given the present application. The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action, and the following remarks are presented for the Examiner's consideration.

Claims 1, 9, and 15 are amended; however, no new search is warranted since the amendments clarify features or limitations previously existing in the claims as originally filed.

Claims 9–20 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Tsujikawa (U.S. Patent No. 5,991,435). The rejection should be withdrawn for at least the following reasons. Claims 10-14 depend from claim 9 and claims 16-20 depend from claim 15. With regard to claim 9, Tsujikawa does not disclose a printing inspection data generating apparatus having a grouping means for classifying and grouping the element shape and position data into data groups according to a grouping condition to identify individual data groups. Rather, Tsujikawa merely depicts individual electrode surfaces P1, P2, and P3 formed at each of three corners on a printed circuit board (Fig. 9). The electrode surfaces P1, P2, and P3 are not grouped according to a grouping condition nor is there any teaching in Tsujikawa that would or that does indicate a grouping according to a grouping condition. In Fig. 8 of Tsujikawa, the centers of cream solders Q1, Q2, and Q3 are printed on the electrode surfaces P1, P2, and P3; however, again, there is no grouping of the electrode surfaces P1, P2, and P3 according to a grouping condition.

Similarly in claim 15, Tsujikawa fails to disclose or teach a printing inspection data generating method **wherein element shape and position data**, indicating shapes and positions of element solder print portions formed on respective electrodes provided on a circuit forming surface of said substrate to be used to bond electronic components, **are classified and grouped into data groups according to a grouping condition to identify individual data groups**.

Tsujikawa is entirely silent on grouping electrodes or element shape and position data into groups which are grouped according to a grouping condition. The representations in Figs. 8 and 9 of Tsujikawa do not demonstrate a grouping of the electrodes according to a grouping condition. Instead, they merely show a plurality of electrodes (and/or with their corresponding centers of cream solders printed thereon) on a circuit board. Thus, Tsujikawa does not teach each and every element as set forth in the rejected claims and therefore, does not anticipate the claims.

Claims 1–8 are rejected under 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsujikawa (U.S. Patent No. 5,991,435) in view of official notice (MPEP 2144.43). Applicants respectfully disagree for at least the following reasons. Tsujikawa fails to disclose or suggest a printing inspection apparatus wherein the inspection data is generated by classifying and grouping element shape and position data ...**into data groups which are grouped according to a grouping condition** as recited in claim 1. The Examiner appears to take official notice with respect to a displaying means of claim 1, which fails to cure the aforementioned deficiency of Tsujikawa. Hence, Tsujikawa in view of the official notice would not have made claims 1–8 obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. 35948.

Respectfully submitted,
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